

Current Happenings with In Home TN in the Valley region

Current Areas of Focus:

The **Communication workgroup** began in late 2012 and is focused on increased involvement of school personnel, Community Advisory Boards, and Family Service Worker involvement. Several “Meet and Greet” meetings have been held, beginning in 2013, and continue to be productive periodic gatherings. In these meetings, community stakeholders come together with DCS staff to learn about the various program areas, how to access these services, and how each unit is integrated with the other components in a family’s case. The priorities of the Communication workgroup continue through the Regional Sustainability team referenced above.

The **Substance Abuse workgroup** began in October 2013 and is working to ensure more consist and ongoing communication with the region’s anti-drug coalitions. The group has also coordinated free substance abuse training for community members and parents to include information on detection of use and resource information.

The **Absent Parent Involvement workgroup** created a “rights of fathers” brochure to help ensure fathers involved with the child welfare system are engaged. The group is currently reviewing their goals and membership, with the intent to focus on getting more fathers involved with their families in the child welfare system.

Up Next!

In September 2015, the region will hold large-scale community meetings to re-assess how well communities in the area are able to provide the services needed for vulnerable families and children.

The information collected from community members will help guide decisions about the future work of In Home Tennessee in the area. The regional leadership group (comprised of both DCS and community partners) will review the feedback and related data from the assessment meetings to decide on which (new) areas to create workgroups for quality improvement and potential creation of new resources for families.

Get Involved!

Contact the Regional Project Lead, Elaine Hong at Elaine.Hong@tn.gov for information.

Last updated: April 2015